Numb. 66.

MERCATOR:

OR,

Commerce Retrieved;

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *Britiſh* Trade, &c.

From Thurſday, October 22. to Saturday, October 24. 1713.

THE *MERCATOR* now freely appeals to all the Impartial Undeluded part of the World, whether he has not made good, what he firſt alledged, (viz.) That the French Trade was always to our Advantage.

He leaves the Adverſary to wrangle about their own Miſtakes, and ſhall now, without taking any Notice of them, proceed to what really has been the true Buſineſs of this Paper from the beginning, (viz.) To ſhew, what this Trade will be for the time to come: And, in purſuing this part, the groſs Ignorance, wilful Cheats, and evident Deluſions of the People, who Oppoſe the Treaty of Commerce, will be ſufficiently expoſed; and as the time draws on, when this may come to be Debated by Impartial Hands in the full Repreſentative of Britain, the *MERCATOR* will endeavour to lay every thing before them in a true Light, that the ſcandalous Endeavours to Impoſe upon them may be juſtly Expoſed.

But before this is entered upon, the *MERCATOR* thinks himſelf obliged to do Juſtice to thoſe Gentlemens Opinions, who have, beſides the Objections made publick in this Paper, ſent divers Letters to the Printer hereof, detecting more Frauds and more Cheats in the Schemes lately publiſhed, than have been yet taken Notice of: They are too many to be contain'd in one Paper, but ſome of them are as follows:

To the Mercator.

SIR,

'YOU would have done well to have been more particular in your Exceptions to the extravagancies of the new Scheme of the French Trade, which 'is publiſhed by thoſe, who Oppoſe the Bill of Commerce: It is manifeſt, what ſuch a notorious Forgery 'was publiſhed for at this time of Day, (viz.) To 'Impoſe upon the People againſt the particular Occaſion of the City, which is now upon the Wheel, 'that they might animate the Party againſt thoſe, who 'faithfully ſerve their Country; and tho' it has had but 'too much Succeſs, and Deluded many, yet others begin 'to open their Eyes, and ſee, tho' late, the Wickedneſs of the Deſign.

'You have helped very much to this good End, but 'eſpecially in your laſt Accounts of the Exports and 'Imports; but had you gone Critically thro' all the 'Corrupt Valuations of their Scheme, you might have 'reduced it above 150,000 l. more in the Importations 'only, than you have done: Indeed, Sir, you ought to 'have ſtript it naked from all the forgeries and notorious 'Cheats with which it is covered, and by which the 'Makers of it have abuſed us; for almoſt in every 'trifle they have Over-charged the Imports to ſwell the 'Account.

'You may take Notice of the following Particulars 'which you have omitted; and if you have any room 'for it, I can ſupply you with three times as many: It is 'very well obſerved in your Paper, that it is eaſie, by 'ſuch abominable Cheats as theſe, to make a Trade Balance, which way we pleaſe.

Your Humble Servant,

D. C.

'The Cheats of their Scheme omitted by you, are ſuch 'as theſe:

	l.	s.	d.
'Salt 16713 Wey, rated at 21. 10 s. 'whereas every one knows it 'did not Coſt near that Price in 'France; it might be worth ſo 'much here indeed, but did not 'Coſt 30 s. per Wey in the Bay, 'whence they brought it —— Difference	16713	—	—
'Cork 5462 C. rated at 16 s. 8 d. 'worth in France but 13 s. to '14 s. per C. ——	728	5	4
'Capers 86472 l. rated at 6 d. per l. 'worth then hardly 4 d. ——	720	12	—
'Feathers 1132 C. rated at 6 l. per C. worth then about 5 l. ——	1132	—	—
'Poldavies 2038 Bolts, rated at 20 s. 'per Bolt, rated by their old Scheme 'but at 15 s. per Bolt ——	509	10	—
'Diaper Napkining 45557 yards, 'rated at 1 s. 4 d. Value from 9 d. 'to 11 d. at moſt, is 10 d. together	1138	18	6
'Cambrick 2632½ Pieces, rated at '2 l. per Piece, not worth above '20 s. to 30 s. is together 25 s. 'per Piece —— ——	1973	5	—
'Canvas, Britany Linen, Holland 'and Flanders over-rated together	3791	—	—
'Match 5250 C. and Okeham 1374 'C. rated at 20 s. and at 10 s. per 'C. worth 14 s. and 6 s. to 8 s. 'The Difference is ——	1781	2	—
'Prunelloes 24888 l. rated at 12 d. 'per l. were bought in France under 6 d. and were ſold for leſs than 12 d. in England by Retail. Dif.	622	4	—
[*Note, Damask and Diaper are Ignorantly Charged all of the ſame Price.*]			
'Diaper Tabling 7437 yards, at 4 s. 'per yard, 2 s. to 3 s. was the 'moſt —— Dif.	371	17	—
'In the ſeveral ſorts of Thread 'Over-charged 2 s. and 4 s. per 'dozen —— Dif.	3082	11	—
'Soap, Swords, Thrown-Silk, Buttons, Olives, Anchovies ——	2500	—	—
	35064	4	10

To

To the Author of the Mercator.

SIR,

" HOW comes it to pass, that you should slip over so " notorious a Cheat in the late Scheme of the " French Importations, published by the other Party, " as that of Pruens at 16s. per Cent. Cost in France? " Have you forgot the old Cry of the Streets of *London*, " *New Damas Pruens a Penny a Pound?* Were they not " sold in the Grocers Shops by Retail at Three Half-" pence a Pound, and Two-pence a Pound the very " best? And these Fools will have them cost as much " in France! You may have twenty and twenty Wit-" nesses to prove, they were bought in France for 7 s. to " 8 and 9 s. a Hundred: and if you reckon them at 8 s. " a Hundred one with another, it is as much as ever " they cost. So pray discount them 8 s. per Cent. which " for 47005 C. ½ is only Eighteen thousand eight hun-" dred and two Pounds four Shillings put upon us by " the Scheme-makers.

Your humble Servant,

Oct. 19. 1713.

Wholesale Grocer.

To the Mercator.

SIR,

" WITH your Leave, after I have granted, that the " Publishers of the new Schemes of the French " Trade are great Cheats, you must bear with me to tell " you, the *MERCATOR* will come in for something " else if he does not take notice of one thing, viz. that " they put in 2790 ounces of Wrought Plate as one of " the Grievances of their Importations; I desire to " know, what the Damage is, If they sent us over a " hundred thousand ounces of Wrought Plate. I think, " with Submission, they ought to have charged nothing " but the Workmanship of the Plate, the other being " just as if they had brought over so much Mony. Nay, " they ought to discount the Value of that Plate, the " said Workmanship excepted, out of the other Value " of the Importations: So that whereas they charge it " one way, and ought rather to discharge it the other " way, it is a Cheat of no less than Five thousand five " hundred and eighty Crowns.

" And pray, Mr. *MERCATOR*, be pleased also " to enquire at the Custom-house, how much Bullion " has been sent to France lately. You may find a hun-" dred thousand Ounces of Silver in Bullion sent to Hol-" land within this two Months. If half that Silver had " gone to France, Noise enough would have been made " of it; but these Villains would part with their Silver, " and their Trade, and their Country too to the Dutch, " without a Word speaking, while they wont let us " Trade to France, though our Gain by it is so visible, " that nothing but Brass it self can deny it.

Your Servant,

Silversmith.

To the Author of the Mercator.

SIR,

" AMong the horrid Cheats of the Scheme you are " Exposing, pray how came you to overlook that " about Calf-skins in the Hair Imported from France, " which are over-charged very nigh 2000 l.? And if " they have the Face to cheat so much in such a Trifle, " what have they done in the whole Account? The " Quantity of Calf-skins in the Hair, which they say " were Imported in 1685 from France, was 37,492 " Skins, and they rate them at 20 s. per dozen, which " is a confounded Cheat. Be pleased to enquire of any " Leatherseller, or other Dealer in that Commodi-" ty, you will find those Goods were then sold for 10 s. " to 11 s. and 12 s. per dozen after they were Tann'd " and Pared for Use: And if they were sold so here by " the single dozen in the Retailers Shops, the Freight, " Tanning, Paring, and the Merchants and Retailers " Profit all included; What must be the prime Cost in " France? It is not possible they could cost in France " above 8 s. per dozen, which is less than his Account " by 1,874 l. 13 s. 8 d. Pray be just to us; and if you " tell us some of their Knavery, tell us all of it; for " why should any such Cheats as these be concealed?

Your humble Servant,

Calf-skin.

To the Mercator.

SIR,

" IN your Observations on the Whigs new Scheme, " there is one thing material, which you have not yet " touched upon, and perhaps may not think of, which " is, that supposing the Scheme to be true, yet there is " a great Fallacy in the Estimate of the Value of the " Goods (upon which the Publisher thereof triumphs, " as if he had obtained the Victory over you in proving " therein, as he pretends, that the Nation lost a vast " Sum by the French Trade,) for at the Custom-house " the Importer is obliged (for Goods not rated in the " Book of Rates) to swear the Value of the Goods as " they are worth here, according to which he pays Du-" ty; and the Exporter swears the Value (not as the " Goods will be worth, where they are to be Sold, but) " as they cost here: And as to Goods rated in the Book " of Rates, there is a vast Disparity; as, for Instance, " Hair Buttons upon Exportation are valued at 6 d. the " small Groce, being twelve dozen; but upon Impor-" tation, such Hair Buttons are valued the small Groce " at 4 s. for the old Duty, for the Subsidy 4 s. and addi-" tional Impost 4 s. Also Printed Books upon Expor-" tation valued at 5 s. per C. weight; on Importation, " at 1 l. old Duty, for the Subsidy 1 l, and additional " Impost 4 l. And upon all Goods rated, you'll find the " Value upon Importation exceed that upon Exporta-" tion to a great degree. Excuse this Trouble from a " Well-wisher to your Undertaking, though

Oct. 13. 1713. Your unknown Servant.

P. S. " I conceive the Fraud committed by the " Scheme in this Particular amounts to above 10,000 l. " seeing the Goods entred by Oath ad Valorem and un-" rated amount to 20581 l. 19 s. 8 d. in which the Value " is near double to the first Cost; and what this fails in " that Sum, the other will make up.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

LONDON: Printed for BENJ. TOOKE, at the *Temple-Gate*; and JOHN BARBER, on *Lambeth-Hill*. (Price 3 Half-pence.)